

Procurement Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee
on
Foreign Language Publications

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
Calendar Year 1955

I. Responsibilities

The Procurement Subcommittee was established by the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications under the provisions of NSCID-16, 7 March, 1953. The specific responsibility of the Procurement Subcommittee is to insure, for the Director of Central Intelligence, the "coordination of the procurement of foreign language publications, it being understood that captured documents are excepted from this provision." (NSCID-16, par. 1)

II. Objectives and Accomplishments for 1955

a. Complete the Union List of USSR Serial Publications

Compilation of the Union List was substantially completed save for a considerable number of USSR periodical and newspaper titles which either appeared initially or reappeared after a long absence during 1955. To incorporate such titles, publication of the List has been postponed until Spring, 1956.

b. Recommend Improvements and Expansion of Procurement Facilities in the Field

Discussions are continually in progress between State and CIA on methods of improving and expanding the procurement of foreign publications. During 1955, discussions centered about the need for PFO positions at Tokyo, Cairo, Djakarta, and London. Justification for such positions and candidates suitable for filling them were submitted.

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[REDACTED] for six months during 1955. Although not altogether satisfactory, the use of personnel on TDY at particular posts has given evidence of value to the PFO program and in areas such as NE/A and SE/A might prove beneficial.

Apart from staffing problems, the largest single obstacle encountered in field procurement remains the varied clerical tasks which encumber the intelligence operations of the PPO. During 1955, moderate success was obtained in reducing this load by transferring to Washington the book accessioning and accounting tasks of PPOs Moscow, Paris, and Hong Kong. The transfer of such functions permitted PPOs to spend more time on the selective acquisition of required publications.

As a result of the early summer trip of Mr. George Pope, Chief, IAD/State to Europe, expansion of the Iberian Peninsula procurement program and of increased procurement in Rome, Athens, and Bern were implemented. The senior PPOs of the areas concerned, i.e., Paris and Berlin, were instructed to develop contacts with local book dealers and engage their cooperation in bringing to the attention of local Mission representatives information on publications of potential interest to Washington. This program is still in the formative stage.

c. Continue Efforts to Coordinate Requirements in Washington and Collection in the Field

Several instances of accomplishments in coordinating requirements and collection by action of member agencies unilaterally or jointly are described in a Supplement to this Annual Report.

III. Objectives for 1956

- a. To determine the advisability of reporting by each member agency concerning the scope and product of its foreign publications procurement program.
- b. To continue efforts to coordinate requirements in Washington and collection in the field.
- c. To study the possibility of a single fund concept for 1) serial subscriptions and 2) books and monographs at Embassy Moscow for all member agencies. If successful at Moscow, a similar procedure should be studied for other posts.
- d. To determine the role of exchange programs in publications procurement.

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Chairman